

The Nile

The Nile River **flows** north 4000 **miles**, or 6400 kilometers, from the (1) _____ of **central** Africa to the Mediterranean Sea. The last 600 miles, or 960 kilometers, is in Egypt. There the river cuts a **narrow**, green valley through **the desert**. (2) _____ before the Nile **reaches the sea**, it **branches** to form a **fan-shaped area** of fertile land called a **delta**. Most **ancient** Egyptians lived in this delta area. For a long time they were (3) _____ from foreign **invasions** by the desert, the sea, and **waterfalls** called *cataracts*.

The Egyptians **had an advantage over** the people of the other river valley (4) _____. They knew about the **middle of** July, _____ its **banks**. **floodwaters** would go _____ that every year, the Nile would (5) _____. By November the _____ down. But the waters **left behind** large amounts of **rich soil** good for (6) _____ **crops**.



The Egyptians learned **to control** the flood waters. To do this, they built a (7) _____ **of dams and ditches** to drain the extra water from the land. They also dug out *basins*, or **bowl-shaped** holes. They used these to hold and store the extra water. A machine called a *shadoof* lifted the water from the river to the basins. To bring the water to the fields **during the dry season**, the Egyptians dug *irrigation canals*.

The Nile River valley is only 3 **percent of** Egypt's land area. Yet most Egyptians lived and worked in this area. In this wall (8) _____ farmers **harvest** grapes **to make** **wine**.

- 1) **Mount**
- 2) **Short**
- 3) **Protection**
- 4) **Civil**

- 5) **Flow**
- 6) **Grow**
- 7) **Systematic**
- 8) **Paint**